

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were examined. Claims 1, 12 and 19 are amended. Claims 1-20 remain in the Application.

A. 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph: Rejection of Claims 1-20

The Patent Office rejects claims 1-10 and 12-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Specifically, the Patent Office believes the specification does not support the limitation of claim 1 that a second portion of an interface material has a second thickness that is left on a first thickness of a first portion of an interface material. The Patent Office believes that the specification does not support the limitation of claim 12 that the thickness of each interface section is at least 150 angstroms.

With respect to the interface material of claim 1, Applicants believe the specification does support the claim. Applicants' explanation in the response filed October 27, 2005, inverted the first portion and the second portion of interface material. In one embodiment described in the Application, a second portion of an interface material is titanium nitride layer 44 formed as a portion of lower metal stack 36. The Application describes that titanium nitride layer 44 may have a thickness of, for example, between 50 and 100 angstroms. See Application, paragraph 0025. A first portion of an interface material is described in an example in the Application as titanium oxide layer 68 of upper metal stack 64. In one embodiment, titanium oxide layer 68 may be formed to a thickness of at least 150 angstroms. See Application, paragraph 0029. Thus, a thickness of titanium oxide layer 68 is greater than a thickness of titanium nitride layer 44.

With respect to claims 12 and 19, Applicants amend the claims to clarify that the interface sections are the interface upper sections.

Applicants respectfully request that the Patent Office withdraw the rejection to claims 1-10 and 12-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

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